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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (original) An apparatus for measuring the level of a fluid in a chamber, the apparatus comprising:

an indicator rod having a first end and a second end, the first end of the indicator rod adapted to measure the height of the fluid in the chamber and the second end of the indicator rod having a stopper;

a tube having a first end, a second end, and an opening therethrough to selectively receive the indicator rod, the first end of the tube connected to the chamber and the second end of the tube having a flange;

a locking mechanism coupled to the stopper, releasably engaging the flange of the tube, and selectively restraining movement of the indicator; and

a seal located between the stopper and the tube, the seal deforming upon engagement with the tube to form a seal face.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the locking mechanism is operable to be actuated from a locked position to an unlocked position by one of a user's fingers.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the locking mechanism is a lever having a first portion adapted to be actuated by a user's finger and a second portion selectively engaging the flange.

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4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the second portion includes a locking surface operably engaging the flange.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said locking mechanism is coupled to the stopper by a connection operable to allow biased rotation of the locking mechanism.

6. (original) An apparatus for measuring the level of a fluid in a chamber, the apparatus comprised of:

an indicator rod having a first end and a second end, the first end of the indicator rod adapted to measure the height of the fluid in the chamber;

a tube having a first end, a second end, and an opening therethrough adapted to accommodate the indicator rod, the first end of the tube connected to the chamber and the second end of the tube having a flange; and

a handle having a first end, a second end, and a locking mechanism, the first end of the handle adapted to be received in the opening of the tube and coupled to the second end of the indicator rod, the second end of the handle adapted for manipulation by a user, the locking mechanism operable to releasably engage the flange of the tube to couple the indicator rod to the tube.

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7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a seal positioned adjacent the second end of the indicator rod, the seal deformable to form a seal face upon positioning the indicator rod in the tube.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the locking mechanism is selectively actuated from a locked position to an unlocked position by a user's finger.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the locking mechanism is a lever having a first portion adapted to be actuated by a user's finger and a second portion selectively engaging the flange of the tube.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the second portion includes a locking surface operably engaging the flange.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said locking mechanism is coupled to the stopper by a connection operable to allow biased rotation of the locking mechanism.